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Power in New York State More than Half Restored After Severe Northeast Outage

Guilderland, N.Y. – More than half of New York State’s load is back up to normal amounts the morning after extensive power outages disrupted service throughout the Northeast and parts of the Midwest and Canada late Thursday afternoon.

As of 5:30 a.m., Friday, the New York State Independent System Operator (NYISO) and the State’s utility companies had restored 56 percent of the State load, and millions of customers had power. New York City still has significant outages, and Long Island has been restored to most of its power needs. The NYISO will continue to restore the system until all customers are back in service. The NYISO and the utility companies are committed to restoring power in a coordinated, reliable manner, but with temperatures expected to reach into the 90s today, some disruptions in service to various parts of the state could still occur.

A major transmission line between New York and Pennsylvania was brought back online soon after the disturbance occurred yesterday. Major interconnections with all neighboring states and provinces have been re-established as well.

The NYISO is asking New Yorkers to avoid all non-essential use of electricity until the system has been completely restored. The power situation continues to be severe today, because of the hot weather and system conditions.

The U.S. Department of Energy authorized the use of the Cross Sound Cable, which connects Long Island to Connecticut. While power on Long Island is approaching complete restoration, the cable will be helpful to Connecticut and New York as we continue to restore the grid.

The NYISO and New York’s electric utilities immediately began restoration efforts after the wide spread outage disrupted power throughout the Northeast and parts of the Midwest and Canada just before rush hour Thursday, August 14, 2003.

At approximately 4:05 p.m. power swings began in the Midwest, which cascaded into Ontario and then New York. At about 4:11 p.m., these conditions caused the New York system to begin separating in the eastern part of the State. Extensive power outages have been experienced throughout the Northeast, especially in New York City, Long Island, northern New Jersey, and southern Connecticut.

The NYISO has worked closely with the New York utilities, electricity suppliers, and the neighboring power systems through the night to piece the bulk power system back together. As portions of the bulk power system are restored, the local transmission owners will reconnect local customers in a coordinated fashion.

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The New York Independent System Operator (“NYISO”)—www.nyiso.com— is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1999 to facilitate the restructuring of New York State’s electric industry. Based in New York’s Capital Region, in addition to administering the State’s wholesale energy markets, the NYISO operates the State’s high voltage electric transmission system. Last year, the NYISO’s market volume exceeded \$5.2 billion.